

# CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service  
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: December 11, 2005  
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## WEATHER



The week began with an upper level high pressure ridge just off the west coast, and a dry northerly flow over the State. This brought sunny skies with near or slightly above normal maximum temperatures for the first two days of the week, but the clear and dry conditions also resulted in cold overnight temperatures across the central valley. On Wednesday, a cold front pushed across northern California. This brought precipitation to the northern two-thirds of the State on Wednesday and Thursday. By Friday the low pressure system which had been associated with the cold front had sheared apart. Some of it moved eastward with the front, but the remainder of the low pressure shifted to a position off the central California coast, with high pressure forming a blocking pattern north of the low. This pattern remained in place for the rest of the weekend, resulting in a dry weather pattern with mild temperatures.

## FIELD CROPS

Field preparation for fall planting of **barley**, **oat**, **wheat**, and winter forage crops continued throughout Fresno county. **Cotton** harvest has essentially ended for the season, with only a few growers picking for a second time. Cotton plowdown was almost complete. **Sugar beet** fields were still being planted and herbicide applications continued in emerged fields. Growers were also placing Mylar 'scarecrows' in the sugar beet fields in order to keep the birds away. Most **alfalfa** hay fields had entered dormant state or were growing very slowly due to the cooler weather. In Tulare County, rain disrupted major field operations such as manure spreading and grain planting. Added moisture brought by the rain was beneficial to newly seeded and early-planted grains. San Joaquin County reported a very slow start to their winter wheat crop. The wheat that had emerged in San Joaquin did not have adequate moisture for vigorous growth, and it was hit with freezing temperatures to further retard growth. Imperial County reported its winter wheat planting was underway and noted the newly planted alfalfa, sugar beets, and wheat all looked good. **Triticale** planting in Fresno county was underway.

## FRUIT CROPS

The harvesting of table **grapes** was nearly complete in the San Joaquin Valley. Grape and tree fruit growers were pruning, irrigating, removing vines, stacking brush, and waiting for allowable burn days. A few growers were also fumigating and cultivating ground for future plantings. The harvesting of **pomegranates**, **persimmons**, and **kiwifruit** continued throughout the State. Some fall season **strawberries** were still being picked in the central valley, and strawberries were being planted for next season in coastal areas. Fall planting of **blueberries** continued. Applications of copper and lime for fungus and weed control and irrigation were ongoing in several citrus groves. Navel **oranges** and **tangerines** continued to be harvested. Pummelos and **grapefruit** hybrids were picked and packed. Satsuma **mandarin** harvest was in full swing with small sizes reported. **Olive** orchards continued to be pruned.

## NUT CROPS

The **pecan** harvest continued in the Clovis district, where trees were being shaken and the nuts swept up from the orchard floors. Growers of other nuts were pruning, irrigating, removing orchards, and stacking brush.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Vegetable harvest increased in the Imperial Valley, with fall **melon** harvest complete. Early head **lettuce** was yellow due to heavy whitefly feeding. **Chili pepper** harvest was complete in Merced County. Lettuce harvest started to slow in the San Joaquin Valley. Also in the Valley, **onions** for processing were transplanted to prepared beds, and growers prepared **tomato** beds for planting. Asian vegetables, baby leaf spring mix, **basil**, **carrots**, **green beans**, onions, organic **cilantro**, **parsley**, **radicchio**, and **sweet corn** continued to be harvested.

## LIVESTOCK

New grass was starting to grow on many winter foothill pastures. Mild temperatures have stimulated grass growth, but more rain will be needed soon. Cattle continued to receive protein supplements or other supplemental feed where grass was short. Fall calving of beef cows was winding down. Many ewes with lambs were grazing in alfalfa fields or retired farm land in the central valley. Feeder lambs in the Imperial Valley were grazing in alfalfa, bermuda, and sudan fields. Mild temperatures were helping to improve milk production. Out of State beekeepers were still bringing bees into California to spend the winter.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 12/11/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 12/11/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 12/11/05	January 1 - 12/11/05	Week Ending 12/11/05	July 1 - 12/11/05	July 1 - 12/11/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	45	-4	54	30	20	0	0.80	15.50	12.22	37.53
Ukiah	46	-1	64	27	1,425	1,454	0.10	7.82	10.55	37.96
Santa Rosa	48	-1	66	28	815	923	0.06	5.56	8.33	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	51	0	63	38	516	443	0.01	2.55	4.77	19.70
San Jose	52	1	66	36	1,318	1,334	0.02	1.70	3.63	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,595	1,457	0.00	0.00	3.59	14.21
Salinas AP	51	0	70	33	443	432	0.00	1.06	3.00	12.44
Monterey FAA	52	1	69	34	160	145	0.00	1.31	4.43	18.72
King City	48	-1	70	27	1,292	1,043	0.03	1.15	2.64	11.44
Paso Robles AP	47	-1	64	25	1,596	1,552	0.29	1.15	2.57	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	48	2	69	25	2,552	2,504	0.07	7.65	8.56	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	47	0	67	28	2,474	2,610	0.02	6.14	6.61	22.29
Chico AFS	47	0	65	27	2,353	2,043	0.00	4.95	6.73	26.32
Marysville	46	-3	65	26	2,536	2,442	0.01	3.95	5.73	21.04
Sacramento AP	47	-1	64	28	1,942	1,932	0.04	2.27	4.40	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	47	0	63	26	2,328	2,214	0.06	1.03	3.64	13.95
Fresno	47	0	58	33	2,974	2,792	0.05	0.76	2.47	10.60
Bakersfield	48	-1	62	33	3,026	3,128	0.00	1.22	1.44	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	53	0	72	30	434	410	0.00	3.67	2.73	12.36
Santa Barbara	53	0	74	31	558	736	0.00	3.57	3.29	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	1,051	940	0.00	0.00	2.95	14.38
Los Angeles	60	0	74	43	2,115	2,455	0.04	1.97	2.48	14.77
Riverside	58	3	78	37	2,746	2,377	0.07	1.78	1.88	9.58
San Diego AP	58	0	74	44	1,702	1,798	0.00	1.01	2.28	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	39	0	61	17	1,641	1,552	0.00	1.91	1.44	5.37
Lancaster	43	-2	63	17	2,442	2,343	0.00	2.74	1.61	6.92
Daggett AP	46	-4	63	28	3,859	3,937	0.00	0.80	1.65	3.93
Thermal AP	53	-2	74	29	5,104	4,870	0.00	2.08	1.45	3.16
Blythe	52	-3	69	32	5,450	5,381	0.00	2.20	2.12	3.60
Imperial	54	-3	72	34	5,273	5,159	0.00	1.39	1.43	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	29	-2	47	5	542	296	0.06	4.44	4.02	12.01
Mt. Shasta	34	-2	51	18	723	446	0.21	9.67	11.17	37.02
Blue Canyon	45	4	58	36	862	574	0.28	15.41	19.08	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	1,259	1,090	0.00	0.31	10.50	37.05

Normal is defined as average over the 30-year period 1961 through 1990. Dashes (- -) in Average Week Ending and Departure from Normal columns mean less than five days reporting, while in High and Low columns mean no days reporting.

Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data are quality controlled by the National Climatic Data Center, the accumulated growing degree day and precipitation values are updated.